



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture  
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE  
ILLINOIS FIELD OFFICE  
801 SANGAMON AVE, RM 62, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62702

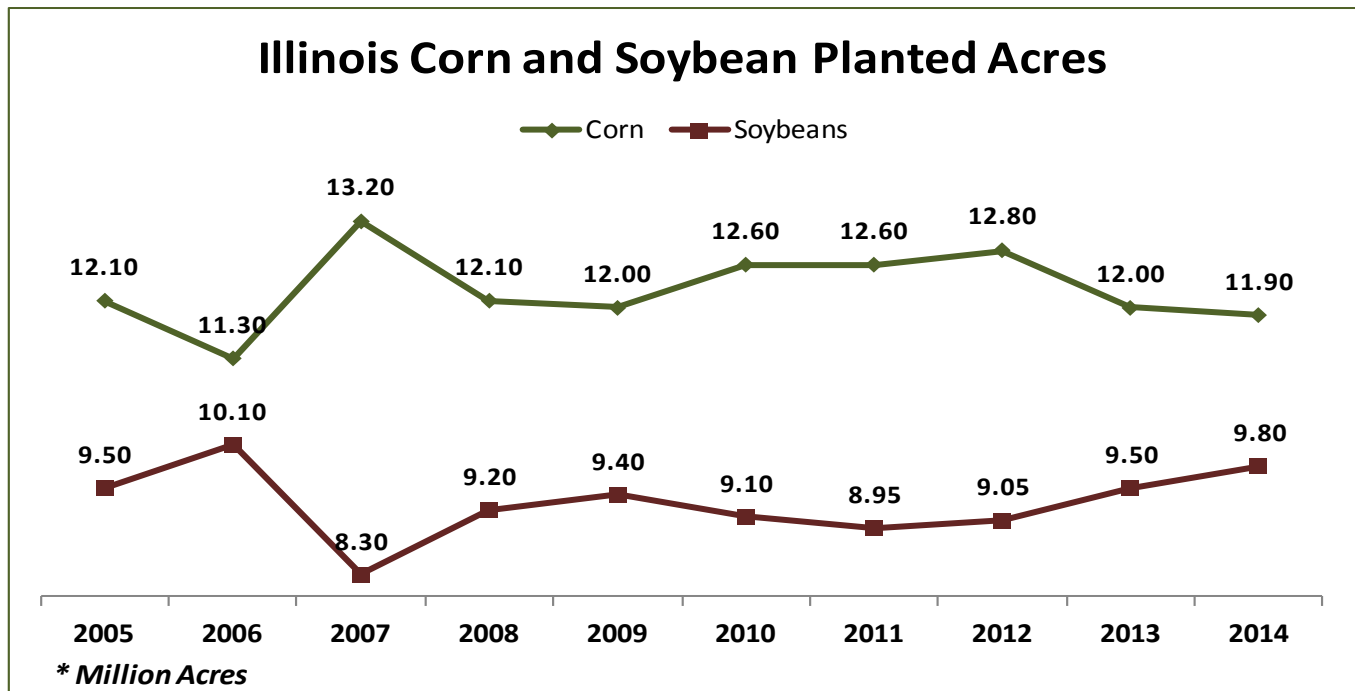


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Contact: Mark Schleusener  
(800) 551-1014

## USDA TO SURVEY FARMERS PLANTING INTENTIONS FOR 2015

Springfield, IL – Illinois farmers planted 11.9 million acres of corn and 9.8 million acres of soybeans in 2014. How will lower grain prices this year impact Illinois farmers as they finalize plans for planting this spring? The March Agricultural Survey conducted by U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will survey 82,000 of the nation's farmers to determine their plans for the upcoming growing season.



“Each year, the agriculture industry looks forward to the USDA’s *Prospective Plantings* report, which provides the first survey-based estimates of U.S. farmers’ planting intentions for the year,” said NASS’s Illinois State Statistician Mark Schleusener. “The March Agricultural Survey provides the factual data that underpins these projections, making it one of the most important surveys we conduct each year.”

NASS will mail the survey questionnaire in late February, asking producers to provide information about the types of crops they intend to plant in 2015, how many acres they intend to plant and the amounts of grain and oilseed they store on their farms. NASS encourages producers to respond via the Internet or mail. Those producers who do not respond by the deadline will be contacted for a telephone or personal interview.

NASS will compile and analyze the survey information and publish the results in the annual *Prospective Plantings* report and quarterly *Grain Stocks* report, both to be released on March 31, 2015.

As with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential, as required by federal law. NASS safeguards the privacy of all responses and publishes only aggregate data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified. These and all NASS reports are available online at [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov). For more information call the NASS Illinois Field Office at 800-551-1014.

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NASS provides accurate, timely, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture. We invite you to provide occasional feedback on our products and services. Sign up at <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/subscriptions> and look for "NASS Data User Community."

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